

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Bible drillers get head start at camp

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptists are known for their devotion to the ministry of Bible drills. In 2007 to date, 3,443 children, youth, and adults have participated in Bible drills, representing 12 churches holding adult drills, 314 holding youth drills, and 330 holding children's drills. More significantly, there were 93 nine-year participants to date in 2007 — students who have participated in Bible drills from the fourth through twelfth grades without missing a year.

What many people don't know is that the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department (D&FM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board offers a Bible drill camp at Central Hills each July. This year's camp — in its eighth year — was July 5-7.

"Bible drill camp is for those who have completed third through sixth grade," said Don Hicks, consultant, Discipleship & Family Ministry department.

"It's for those who are entering children's drills for the first time, and for those who are making the transition from children's drills to youth drills — that can be a hard transition. It's a big jump, just because of the differences in how we do the different drills.

"We have a total camp involvement of 192," Hicks continued. "We always do it during the 4th of July week. The participants do get a head start in memorizing scriptures, but what you need to realize is that about half of those here have never done Bible drills. For our Bible drills and



CRAFTY KIDS — Shelby Williamson, Miles Huff, and Kaylah Hall, all of Hebron Church, Hebron, work on their birdhouses during the craft track time at the Bible Drill Camp at Central Hills July 5-7. (Photo by Tony Martin.)

activities, we use the scriptures in the drills, but the kids will get value from the camp even without the drills themselves."

The camp began the afternoon of July 5 with recreation activities: horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, ropes courses, and the rifle range. Other options included kick ball, tetherball, and four square. After supper, worship was held in the gym, followed by a break and one of several Bible studies — again, based on the memory verses. Friday, July 6 was a full day, again with worship, Bible study, and recreation, but with the extra added components of Track Times and Morning Watch. The Morning Watches — devotional times — were led by Central Hills counselors. The Track Times consisted of three different learning activities: Central Hills crafts, meeting "real live" missionaries, and Bible skills. The entire group rotated through the three Track Time activities, so that each participant could experience each session in a smaller group. Saturday, July 6 included the final morning watch, Bible study, and worship.

Charles and Betty Davis, Toomsooba, and members of 15th Avenue Church in Meridian, helped with the Bible skills track. (Davis was previously Associational Missions Director in Pike Association.)

"It really does give them a good start for the next year," said Betty Davis. "They'll get a handle on what they will be doing — the verses, the key passages, everything."

"Part of the group we're working with — this is their first year," said Charles Davis. "So we're teaching them the basics, even how to hold the Bible. A lot of them don't even know the books of the Bible, so we work on that. One of the churches in our group have never done Bible drills before, and it's a great experience for them."

When asked why Bible drills continued to be such a "big deal" in Mississippi, Charles Davis said, "I think Mississippi Baptists just understand the importance of learning scripture and applying scripture to life."

"I think it's something of a legacy handed down," said Betty Davis. "Their parents did it, their grandparents did it, and now they are doing it."

"We see Bible drills the most effective in churches where the pastor is behind it," said Charles Davis. "You have to have good leaders in the local church and pastoral support for Bible drills to succeed."

"In our case, we just love God and love His word," said Betty. "And we love children."

Several churches in the state are noted for their Bible drill ministries. The top six churches for children's drill participants are (in descending order): Crossgates, Brandon; First Church, Jackson; Hillcrest, New Albany; Cleary, Florence; First Church, Taylorsville; and First Church, Helena. Among churches with youth drillers: First Church, Senatobia; Salem Heights, Laurel; Bethlehem, Laurel; Agricola, Lucedale; Ecu, Ecu; and First Church, Houston. One item of note: Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale, had 28 adult drillers and Star Church, Star, had 11.

There were other benefits to the Bible drill camp.

"We had eight registered professions of faith during the worship services," said Hicks. "We are dealing with children just at the right age, so there is more to camp than dealing with a time clock. There is a real spiritual value here."

For more information on Bible drills, including details on how to begin this ministry in your local church, call Hicks at (800) 748-1651, ext. 287, or local in Jackson at (601) 292-3283, or email dhicks@mbcb.org.

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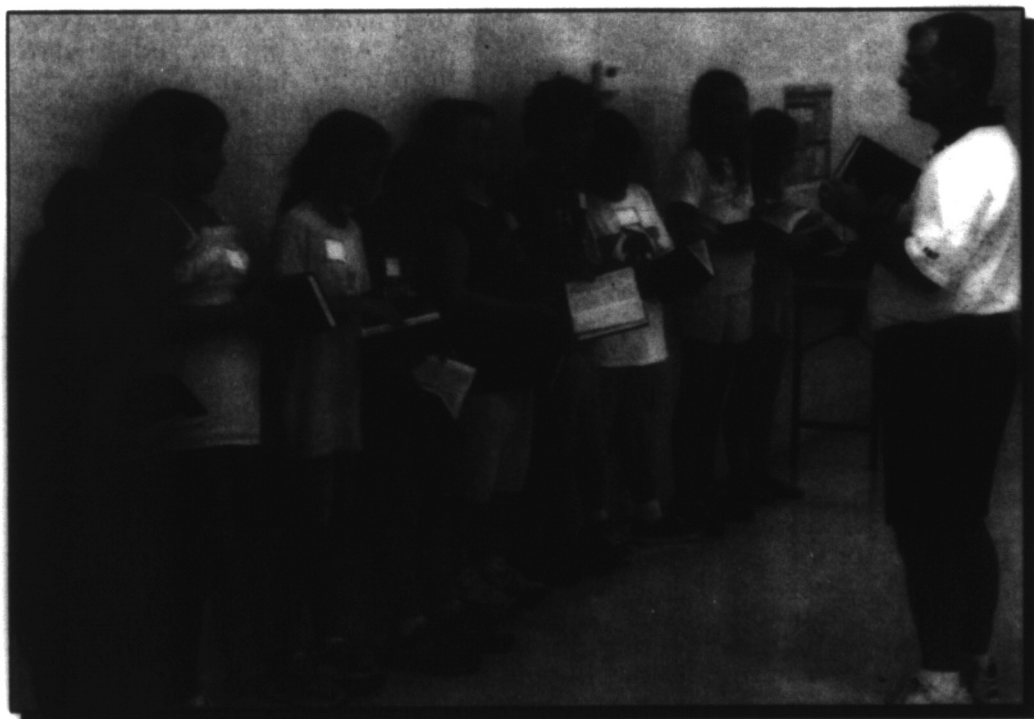
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BAPTISTS



DRILLING SKILLS — Charles Davis (right) of 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, works with students learning the proper techniques for Bible drills. (Photo by Tony Martin)

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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H. Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

### EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

### LAYOUT/DESIGN

Matt Broome  
mbroome@mbcb.org

### ADVERTISING

Dana Richardson  
drichardson@mbcb.org

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

### EDITOR EMERITUS

Don McGregor

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### Postmaster:

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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800

Fax: (601) 292-3330

E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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# Navigating troubled waters

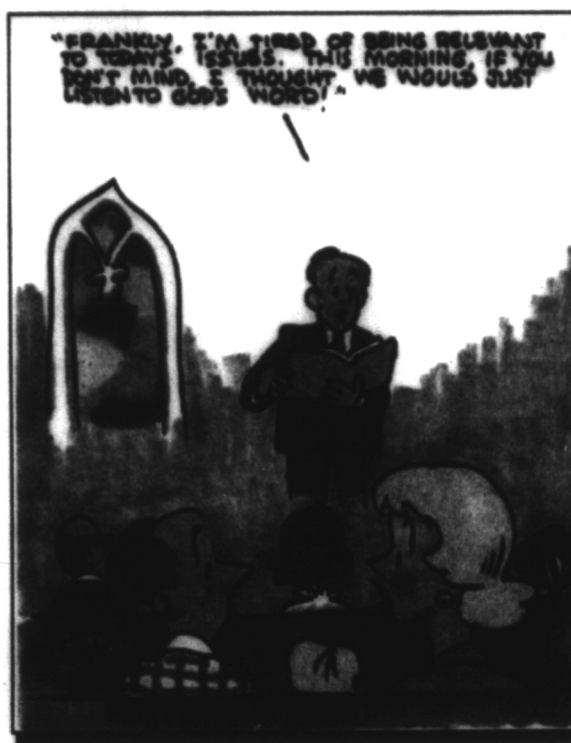
We live in a time of "emerging" churches, "satellite campuses," and "blended" worship services. Some churches have dropped "Baptist" from their names, and some now refer to Sunday School not as Sunday School but as "Bible Study Hour." That is, if they haven't dropped Sunday School altogether in favor of small home meetings during the week.

"We don't have a worship service at my church any longer; we have an entertainment hour," lamented a Mississippi Baptist not long ago. "My pastor doesn't even bring his Bible to the pulpit on Sunday," said another Mississippi Baptist from the other side of the state. "All we hear are lectures on pop culture and 'feel-good-about-yourself,' Joel Osteen-style messages." (Osteen is a popular TV preacher from a Word of Faith background in Houston, Texas.)

The Journey, a St. Louis church plant sponsored by the North American Mission Board and the Missouri Baptist Convention, was featured on NBC's Today show earlier this year for Theology at the Bottleworks, a church-sponsored "discussion group" that meets over beer in a bar.

"You sit down over a glass of wine or a pint of ale or something like that, and you can connect with people more," one attendee told the Today crew.

It's safe to say that the Christian Church has undergone a few changes over its 2000-year history. The Church has adapted to circumstances, good and bad. Some of those changes turned out well, and some were mistakes (to say the least).



Many of the good ideas served a purpose and were retired after a very useful life. Many of the bad ideas have come and gone, too. Some of the good has stuck around, as has some of the bad.

The point is that while all change is not good, change is not entirely bad, either. In some of the examples above, people have taken change too far in an effort to respond to cultural pressures they are apparently feeling. Such cultural pressure is not isolated to Mississippi Baptists or Southern Baptists.

The Episcopal Church in America, for another example, decided a few years ago to condone and openly support the elevation of minister Eugene Robinson, a prac-

ticing homosexual with a live-in lover, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire. Many of the member denominations of the worldwide Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church in America is a member, have condemned that decision, but the Episcopal Church in America has been steadfast in its decision to bend to cultural pressure in this important area.

These are troubled waters we are presently attempting to navigate. It would be easy to simply say change is good — because it often is — but we must in all things guard against the watering down of the central message of our faith in the name of change. Namely, that a loving and just God chose to reveal Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, so that all who believe can be saved and enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven (John 3:16).

There are manifold ways to deliver that simple message to a lost world. The problem is that too many of us have gone too far afield, complicating the message or even compromising it just to get people in the door.

There's nothing wrong with conducting a Saturday evening worship service, but it is wrong to tell people there may indeed be avenues open to God other than a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. There's nothing wrong with drums and electric guitars in church, but it is wrong to say that sin and the eternal damnation it brings are outmoded or discredited concepts.

The lists and the arguments about the lists could go on and on, but one point we must never forget in our rush to contemporize all things religious: Hell is hot, Heaven is sweet, and Jesus saves.

Let's get busy and take that bold message to a lost world (Matthew 28:18-20). The rest will take care of itself.

## Canadian Anglicans send mixed message on homosexuality

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)

— In a move that left the Anglican Church of Canada standing alongside the wider Anglican Communion rather than the U.S. Episcopal Church, bishops voted 21-19 against a resolution to allow churches to conduct blessing ceremonies for homosexual couples.

At the same time, the Canadian bishops at the General Synod meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 24 agreed that the blessing of same-sex unions is not in conflict with the church's core doctrine in the sense of being creedal, according to the denomination's news service.

The bishops also affirmed a statement urging the church to show pastoral understanding and sensitivity to all same-sex couples, and they committed to developing pastoral strategies to make homosexuals feel accepted, ACC-News reported.

Bishop Patrick Yu of Toronto, one of the authors of the pastoral care statement, told the news service that the bishops represent a diverse group and there was "no consensus" regarding the topic. "It's a fragile situation," Yu said.

Reuters explained that the blessing is not a marriage ceremony but is a ritual performed by a priest recognizing the relationship, and it is sometimes offered to heterosexual couples to pray for the couple's future. "Gay marriage" is legal in Canada.



Homosexual members of the Episcopal Church apparently were hoping their counterparts to the north would vote to bless same-sex couples so that the practice would become more accepted. But the bishops' refusal to approve the measure could heighten the tension between Episcopalians and the larger communion, experts say.

"The action of the Canadian Anglican Church will further isolate the leadership of the U.S. Episcopal Church within the worldwide Anglican Communion," John Green, senior fellow in religion and American politics at the Pew Forum, told Reuters. "This is likely to make it more difficult to reach some kind of accommodation between the U.S. church and the rest of the Anglican Communion."

Anglican primates have given U.S. bishops until Sept. 30 to pledge not to authorize official prayers for homosexual couples or consecrate another homosexual bishop, or they may be expelled from the 77-million-member communion. Episcopal leaders have said they have no intention of changing their policies.

Meanwhile, several organizations of Orthodox Jews made their views known as the New York Assembly moved toward voting to legalize what the group termed "alternative lifestyle" marriage in the state.

"We oppose the redefinition of the bedrock relationship of the human family," the National Council of Young Israel, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel of America said in a joint statement before the vote.

"... The institution of marriage is central to the formation of a healthy society and the raising of children," the Jewish leaders wrote. "It is our sincere conviction that discarding the historical definition of marriage would pose a severe danger to society in a variety of ways."

The New York Assembly voted 85-61 June 19 to legalize "gay marriage," but the bill is not expected to pass the state's Republican-led Senate.

"Society's mores may shift and crumble but eternal verities exist," the Jewish leaders said. "One is marriage. Its sanctity must be recognized and its integrity preserved."



# Study: Pornography reaches into church

GRAPEVINE, Texas (BP) — Divorce lawyers are noting its increasing influence. In Great Britain, it's blamed for a 20% jump in sexual assaults perpetrated by kids as young as 11. In the United States, the adult film industry sees it as a \$13 billion a year business — more money than mainstream Hollywood generates.

The numbers are staggering: up to 45 million "unique" users visited adult websites in a recent month, as tracked by Nielsen Net Ratings. With the advent of wireless handheld devices, porn is accessible via mobile phones and similar devices.

"Certainly, this is going to make it easier to view porn in more places than ever," Pamela Paul, author of *Pornified: How Pornography Is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships and Our Families*, told USA Today.

"The flood of pornography in our culture has desensitized society and has contributed to the fact that our nation is wandering aimlessly in dangerous, uncharted territory," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said in a statement e-mailed to the Southern Baptist TEXAN, the weekly news journal of Southern Baptists of Texas.

That flood has entered the church doors, leaving anecdotal and documented evidence that families and churches are being damaged, mostly by Christian men — some of whom are ministers — who succumb to what Land calls a cheap imitation of God-designed sex.

"Sexuality is a far bigger and more troubling issue in the church than any other moral issue," Land said.

The National Council on Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity reports that an estimated two million Internet users are addicted to pornography. Christian men are among them. In an August 2000 survey of its readership by Christianity Today magazine, 36% of laymen who responded had visited a sexually explicit Internet site, of which 44% visited such sites "a few times" in the past year.

Additionally, the six-year-old research showed that 51% of pastors admitted pornography was a possible temptation, 37% said porn is a struggle and 33% had viewed Internet pornography at least once a year.

One pastor who spoke to the TEXAN about the problem said the incidence of sexual immorality in the church, with pornography as the culprit, has increased in the last five years. The pastor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he has counseled two fellow ministry leaders regularly over the last year who have lost their ministries because of porn and related problems.

One lost his marriage and the other is fighting to keep his, the pastor said. One was a para-church leader whose wife discovered his addiction. "He's doing treatment, he's doing counseling, he's doing accountability," the pastor said. "He's doing everything he can do."

The man did not have extramarital intercourse, but "he was doing the pornography, topless bars ... He spent thousands of dollars on this type of stuff. This guy was in ministry."

The pastor estimated that "80% of all young ministers have at some point struggled with this on some level. Now, that may be as simple as he got sent a naked picture and he looked at it and that was the end of it but on some level, I would say virtually every minister under the age of 30 has had some kind of experience with it in their adult lifetime."

He added: "If you're talking about just men in general under the age of 40, I'll tell you it's well above 50% that at least occasionally use pornography. I'm saying Christian men. Statistics show that as well."

Henry Rogers, corporate chaplain at Dallas-based Interstate Batteries and author of the book *The Silent War: Ministering to Those Trapped in the Deception of Pornography*, told the radio audience of For Faith & Family that porn's proliferation is "ripping the soul out of the American male."

Rogers said the problem is "within the church walls and

## PORN

### America?

- 45 million Americans use the Internet to visit porn sites each month
- 25 percent of all search engine requests are pornographic
- Sex is the number one search engine topic searched on the Internet
- 70 percent of 18 to 24 year old men visit porn sites in a typical month

Source: National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families

not only in the pews but in the pulpit as well." The mind is the battlefield, Rogers said, noting the crucial Christian discipline of taking thoughts captive.

"We have an adversary who wants to take us out," Rogers said. "He may wait 10, 15, 20 years. There is no age at which we can relax, thinking we are immune to sexual temptation."

Rogers added: "Confession is a powerful deterrent to temptation."

Stephen Lawhon, 32, a member of Central Church in College Station, Texas, and a longtime Christian believer, said he attempted to fight the temptation of pornography for years until he found hope in the simple warnings of Scripture.

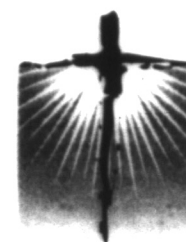
Lawhon said that even though he grew up in a Christian family, his occasional encounters with porn as a kid led to a problem that he recognized as early as age 15. "I started seeing porn at 11 or 12 years old. There would be a

dirty magazine outside somebody's house. It just escalated from there. I always had an unquenchable thirst for it."

All the while, he was a leader in his youth group. He even recalled talking to his youth minister once about it. "He prayed with me and patted me on the back and said, 'Hey, it's going to be alright.' That was it, and that's not a slam on him. We just didn't know what to do with this back then. We just didn't talk about that stuff."

After meeting his future wife, he told her he had struggled with pornography, but he said she underestimated the problem. He thought that once he was married he would no longer desire pornography, but he was wrong.

"The pastor who married us told us whatever problems we bring into our marriage would be magnified in the marriage. He was right, and I nearly lost my marriage over it."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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### Correction

Frank Page, Southern Baptist Convention president, appointed Stan Buckley, pastor, First Church, Jackson, and Gary Richardson, pastor, North Oxford Church, Oxford, to the Committee on Committees of the SBC.

## Porn help online

DALLAS (BP) — Pure Online ([www.pureonline.com](http://www.pureonline.com)) is a fairly new resource aimed at being a first step for Christians with sex addictions, especially pornography. Through a partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources, the company offers an online Bible study to help men and women seek sexual purity one day at a time. In the two years since the company went online, more than 10,000 clients have logged on and purchased the workshop materials. Through streaming videos and downloadable workbooks, clients can, in private and complete confidentiality, begin the journey to freedom. A person may log on to the website and select one of the four workshops and begin. Each workshop is geared to a specific user: single men, married men, single women and a workshop with counseling for married men. There are also resources for pastors, wives and parents. The workshops range in cost from \$140 for a 15-chapter session to \$450 for a similar session that includes personal phone counseling.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Vacation Bible Schools in Southern Baptist Churches attracted almost 3.2 million participants with more than 53,000 professions of faith in 1996.

### 20 years ago

Freney Church, four miles south of Carthage, has experienced a 65% growth in Sunday School attendance since starting the Sunday School Growth Spiral program. Attendance has grown from 74 in February to 122 in June. Lee Hudson, pastor.

### 30 years ago

The largest VBS in Mississippi history concludes at Daniel Memorial Church in Jackson, with an estimated 1100 children present for commencement activities.





#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### PRAYER LISTS

Not long ago I ran into a man that some years ago I was their family pastor. It seemed to be one of those chance encounters where you see an old friend. For me it turned out to be more than that and possibly for him as well. I had not seen him in a good while, and I had no idea of what had been going on in his life or his wife's life. A few sentences into our conversation he began to tell me the serious health issues his wife was facing. Like so many people, her health problems seemed to come instantly. She had done all of the right things, ate the right foods, tried to take care of herself, and even made regular visits to the doctor. Without any warning they were faced with a major problem. She and her husband, the medical support team, and many believing, praying friends were focused on helping.

In the course of our conversation he said, "We must be on over a hundred prayer lists at different churches." Then he told me of some churches who were nearby, some hundreds of miles away, and others thousands of miles away. I left telling him that I would be praying for her, and since that time I have joined with all of those unseen and unknown people who are praying and talking to the Father about the needs in his family.

Surveys across America show that the majority of people pray. The reason they do is because many of them believe in prayer and another compelling reason is that so often people just desperately need prayer. We need God's help. We need His intervention. We need answers. We need strength when we are weak, and we need to trust Him when we do not know or understand. Prayer is a vital part of many of our lives, and we do well to make talking to the Lord a significant part of our Christian walk and our daily activities.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Sometime after that conversation I began to think about how significant and how vitally important prayer lists are. Many individuals have prayer lists just so they want lose sight of people and forget about them. They go down their list praying for folks day after day. Through the years I have been blessed and encouraged by so many who have been thoughtful enough to put my name on their personal prayer list and private time of talking to the Lord about the needs in this servant's life. It makes a difference! But while some people do not have a list, most of our churches do maintain some kind of a list of people for prayer not just for people who are sick but also for other needs in people's lives they want somebody to be praying about. Churches join together and intercede as they talk to the Lord about them and for them.

I want to take this opportunity to impress upon each of you and all of our churches to treat these prayer lists seriously. We need to be extremely diligent about the prayer lists because prayer works. If we want to get in on what God is doing, we will spend time in prayer. Jesus instructed His disciples and us in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." In a wonderful sense Jesus opens the door of prayer and invites us into the workroom of God. When folks start seriously and sincerely

praying, the work of God significantly begins to be seen. James tells us in chapter 4, "You do not have, because you do not ask God." Prayer works! Prayer makes a difference in the one who is being prayed for and the one who is praying.

The spiritual dynamics of prayer have far-reaching implications. Now let me be clear in conveying what the Scripture says. Prayer can provide miracles, but when a miracle fails to take place in the way we ask, it does not mean that God is not at work. It does not even mean that a miracle has not occurred. Sometimes when we pray and ask God to do something He does. He may take something away, bring something in, or lift something up. At other times when He doesn't answer in the way we have asked, He still may provide strength and enabling grace which in itself may be a miracle. Instead of taking something away, He may put something in our way to help us. So we certainly need to pray because it works.

Let's go back to the prayer lists for just a moment. Act seriously, sincerely, and thoughtfully as you would want other people to act toward you if your name was on that list.

Here at the Baptist Building we put out prayer requests by E-mail so that almost instantly everyone who is at work at their desk can receive word of a need or a prayer victory. Have you ever been on a prayer list? Have you ever had a tremendous need far beyond your abilities or capabilities and you found out that people were praying for you? It is some kind of a good blessing. When you genuinely, fervently pray for someone I believe it makes a difference in his or her life but it will also bless you. Take the time to pray for the folks on the prayer list so that you will feel good about them praying for you when your name appears.

The author may be contacted at  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

#### VBS

**Dixie Church, Hattiesburg:** June 3-7; enrollment, 165; average attendance, 121; offering of \$911.35 given to the Baptist Children's Village.

**Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point:** July 16-20; 6:30-8:30 p.m., ages pre-K through 6th grade.

[www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org)

#### STAFF CHANGES

**Cliff Temple Church, Natchez,** has called Russell Wagoner as pastor, effective May 6.

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#### Samaritan Counseling Services Completed its 10th Year Training Pastoral Counseling Specialists

The counseling program provides training for clergy and lay persons who desire to integrate the discipline and practice of counseling with one's faith perspective. Participants prepared to be accredited with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. There will be a summer unit, which will be continued in the Fall and Spring.



Front pictured left to right: Recent Graduate Jill Barnes Buckley, Jona Keeton, and recent graduate Jacqueline J. Crudup. Back pictured left to right: Rev. J. Dennis Daniels, Sr., Duwayne Tullos, Rev. Elbrist Mason, James W. Street, and Director of Baptist's Samaritan Counseling Dr. Barry Click.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 12, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## It's Your Call! Mission Leadership Training for the Church



Choose from 4 locations

### Missions Leadership Training (a part of Growing Churches)

FBC, Tupelo, July 27-28

### Missions Leadership Training

FBC, Columbia, August 21

### Missions Leadership Training

FBC, Olive Branch, August 28

### Missions Leadership Training

Camp Garaywa, August 24-25  
(Only MLT requiring registration)

- Co-sponsored by Men's Ministry Department and wMu
- For more information on events, contact Tammy Anderson: Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or E-mail [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)
- Camp Garaywa training requires a registration for lodging and meals. Registration forms available online at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org) (click on events, wMu) or call Alicia Dungan at 601-924-7034 or E-mail [adungan@mbcb.org](mailto:adungan@mbcb.org)

## LITERACY MISSIONS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Copiah Baptist Association  
Hazlehurst

August 23-25, 2007

Cost - \$25

Deadline for registration - August 1

Contact to register 601-894-2024

FBC, Brandon - date TBA

North Delta Association - date TBA

### TUTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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Hazlehurst

November 1-3, 2007

Cost - \$25

Deadline to register - October 1

Contact to register 601-894-2024

### CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STORYING

FBC, Brandon - date TBA

### STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Camp Garaywa - October 4-6, 2007  
Basic Workshops (ESL, ARW, TCY)  
as well as topical seminars

For more information  
on all the above go to:  
[www.mbcb.org/mission\\_strategy/wmu/literacy/training.aspx](http://www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy/training.aspx)  
or contact Paula Smith at  
[psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)  
or 800-748-1651, ext. 336

Now is the  
Time to Pre-register  
Please register with  
Lee County  
Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 2640  
Tupelo, MS 38803  
Phone: 662-566-1700  
Fax: 662-566-4006  
E-mail: [lcba@wmu.com](mailto:lcba@wmu.com)  
(Cost \$5 per person)

## Growing Churches

### Growing Churches: Equipping the Body of Christ To Serve and Teach

"for the training of the saints  
in the work of ministry, to build up  
the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:12

Friday and Saturday  
July 27-28, 2007  
FBC, Tupelo

Sponsored by the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department & North Mississippi Baptist Associations

## 2007 State Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, August 30

Mississippi College, Swor Auditorium

\$1 at door

Speaker: Dennis Swanberg

Music: Visionaries Choir, FBC, Hattiesburg



Swanberg

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

### CONFERENCES

#### • Fun Time with Rick

Rick Brewly, juggling, music and magic

#### • Success of Significance for Senior Adults

Tom Crocker, Memphis, Tenn., LifeWay Consultant

#### • Developing a Servant Heart

Dennis Daniel, Pastoral Care Ministries, FBC, Jackson

To register for meal,  
contact Eric Pratt at  
MC, 601-925-3235,  
fax 601-925-3909,  
or E-mail at  
[epratt@mc.edu](mailto:epratt@mc.edu).  
Deadline to register  
for meal is August 23.



**"COME APART"** before you **"COME APART!"** Join us for a time of relaxing, refreshing and renewing at the state women's retreat.

**State wMu Women's Retreat**  
October 12-13, 2007  
Camp Garaywa

Call today for info and WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM: 601-292-3317 or 1-800-748-1651 and/or E-mail [Kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:Kburns@mbcb.org) or [Lmiller@mbcb.org](mailto:Lmiller@mbcb.org) - Registration Deadline: Friday, October 5, 2007  
REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON \$15 plus the cost of lodging and meals.

## FALL CHAPLAINS' TRAINING

**"Ministering to our Troops - Pre- and Post-Deployment"**



**September 14, 2007**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Skyroom  
515 Mississippi St., Jackson, MS

**Leader: Chaplain Colonel Tommy Fuller**  
State Chaplain, Mississippi National Guard

This training is for all chaplains, full-time and volunteer, pastors, and those interested in ministering to our troops and their families.

Cost of conference is \$5.00 / Lunch will be provided.

To register, call Carol Wright, Men's Ministry Department:  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3334 or E-Mail: [cwright@mbcb.org](mailto:cwright@mbcb.org)

Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association in cooperation with Men's Ministry Dept., MBCB.



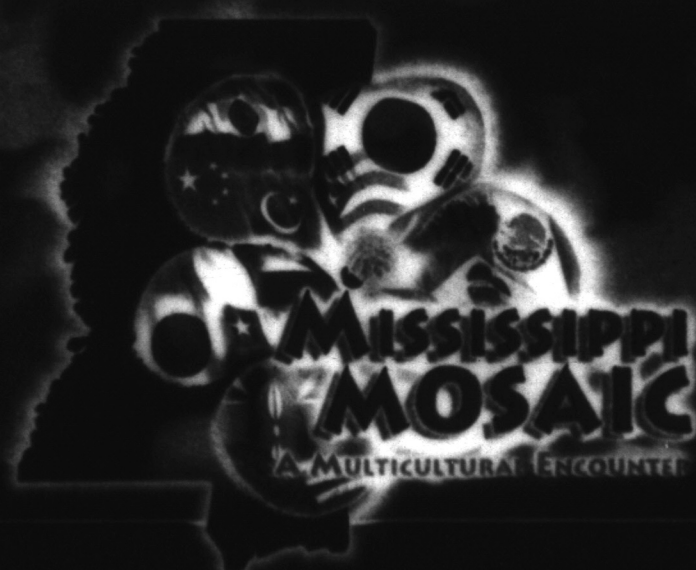
## TEACHER APPRECIATION AND PRAYERWALK FOR SCHOOLS



**Sunday, July 29, 2007**

- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school teachers and administrators.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to Prayerwalk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the prayerwalk experiences during the evening worship.

*If you need help, developing a prayer strategy, please refer to the 2007 MS wMu yearbook, section 5, pages 4-7. If you would like to receive information sheets on Prayerwalking Local Schools for Principals, for Pastors and for Participants, call 601.292.3317 or E-mail [Kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:Kburns@mbcb.org) or [Lmiller@mbcb.org](mailto:Lmiller@mbcb.org); (Order Prayerwalking Key Chains from [www.prayerclosetministries.org](http://www.prayerclosetministries.org) or call Dr. Kevin Meador, 601.635.2180).*



A State Workers Summit  
for People Involved in Their Ministries  
and Those Wanting to Get Started

CAMP GARAYWA, AUGUST 3-4, 2007

## The Minister's Health: Three Critical Concepts to Change Your Ministry

**August 13**  
**LOCATION CHANGE!!!** Oakdale BC  
Brandon  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**August 14**  
Lauderdale  
Association Office  
Meridian  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### TO REGISTER:

Contact  
Kay McDonnell at  
1.800.748.1651,  
ext. 305,  
or 601.292.3305  
or  
E-mail  
[kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)



**SPEAKER**  
**Barney Self**

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department



Nancy Fink

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Difficult People  
& Confronting

Records, Making  
Techniques  
for the Ministry



Diane Cocks

August 28

For more information, call...



**Acts 1:8**  
**Empowered to tell**

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT**

**Wade Morris**  
 GUEST SPEAKER

**Chris Orr**  
 WORSHIP LEADER

**July 20, 2007**  
 Mississippi Coliseum, 6:30 p.m.  
 Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

*Sponsored by the Evangelism Department  
 of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
 P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205*

**Professional Certification and SkillShops**

**August 28-30, 2007**

**28-30 Camp Garaywa •**

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS**

call Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (601) 948-3800 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 300

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES RETREAT

For exceptional persons (12 years and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers and friends

**SEPTEMBER 7-8**  
**CAMP GARAYWA**



### THEME: GAME DAY CENTRAL

There will be games, Bible study, singing, movies, and lots of fun for all participants. Registration begins at 3 p.m. on September 7 and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on September 8.

### COST: \$37.50 PER PERSON

This includes overnight lodging and three meals.  
 One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department  
 For more info, contact Shelley Hollingsworth, 601-292-3292



**Immanuel Baptist Church**  
 Little Rock, Arkansas  
**October 17-20, 2007**  
 For more information  
 visit [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com).

## 2007 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Training

### The Wonderful Mystery



**SATURDAY, JULY 28**

<b>FBC, McComb</b>	<b>Hernando BC</b>
<b>1700 Delaware Ave.</b>	<b>11 East Center St.</b>
<b>McComb</b>	<b>Hernando</b>

All directors and teachers are encouraged to attend.

Registration: 8:30-9 a.m. / Conference: 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
 No preregistration required / Cost: \$7 per person

- Materials and methods classes for all preschool, younger and older children's choir workers.
- Led by our state clinicians.

For more information, call Sarah Talley, Church Music Department,  
 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271

**Note: Music Leadership, July 12-14, FBC, Jackson will be the central training event.**



# Pray this day for...

July 13 - 26, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"In Jesus, we see a God who is so moved by compassion that He reaches out to touch us. In Jesus, we encounter a God who is so inviting that we can reach out and touch Him."

"Loved by the Son" by Mike Fleischmann

As one of the largest urban centers in the world, Mexico City suffers from no shortage of problems, including poverty, pollution and violent crime. About 3 million Mexicans make up their lower economic class. Less than 2 percent are Christians. The inner-city Mexicans have a tremendous need for the truth of the gospel.

A volunteer team from Texas recently made a visit to 48 Songhai villages of Niger and Mali. They distributed 1,000 gospel cassettes, prayed, walked in each village, distributed the "Jesus" film, and visited and prayed for each chief. Pray that Songhai Team members will see a harvest of many souls.

(1) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 16th-20th (MMU); (2) 2 Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, 16th-20th (CM); (3) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 16th-20th (MM).

(1) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 23rd-27th (MMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 23rd-27th (MM).

Give thanks to God for the incredible harvest taking place throughout China. One worker reported: "I have served in my city three years. There are three different churches that I work with right now. Altogether, so far these three years, they've built about 90 churches. We've baptized approximately 1,000." All glory and honor to Him!

The Rural 8 team of Non-Urban Haitians of Haiti writes: "The chronological Bible Storying group at [ ] continues to grow. About 15 people meet twice a week to hear God's Word. Twenty-five new believers have come to know the Lord. Pray that they will continue to grow in faith as they worship together."

Pastors were asked how long they spend in prayer each day, and what they pray for. The average time was about 30 minutes. Younger ministers are much less satisfied with their prayer lives, yet spend about as much time as older ministers. A satisfying prayer life is spending less time asking God for things and more listening to what God has to say.

The Bible teaches us that Christian marriages are to represent Christ's love for the church. Pray for God to cause a hungering and thirsting in the lives of Christian husbands and wives to know the sacrificial love of Christ to each other.

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has. Quit griping about your church: if it was perfect, you and I couldn't belong.

(1) Mississippi Kids' Camp 2007, Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center, Vossburg, Miss., 26th-28th (SS).

A Muslim-background believer evangelist of India working among Deccani Muslims was recently beaten up. The evangelist was questioned by the police and beaten again when his answers did not satisfy them. Pray that God will give comfort as these Muslim-background believers share in the sufferings of our Lord.

Pray for Jim and Becky Courson as they move to Richmond after 16 years in Taiwan. Jim will serve as Senior Global Information System Analyst with the Global Research Department of the International Mission Board. Their E-mail address is "the coursons@pobox.com."

Training of local believers at Silti, Ethiopia, in Chronological Bible storying is continuing. Pray that they will tell the stories week by week to some of the people. This is difficult to do for many reasons, but if a person listens to the stories week by week, they are likely to hear from the Holy Spirit and follow Christ.

Pray for the new believers in Malawi to grow strong in their faith. Pray that in each church, there will be those who will spend time with these people, sharing with them from God's Word and teaching them how to walk with the Lord each day.



## FLAKE'S FORMULA

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE WITH A FOCUS ON MINISTRY

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007**  
WEST LAUREL BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WINONA

**SCHEDULE: 9 A.M. TO NOON AT EACH LOCATION**

**CONFERENCES WILL BE OFFERED FOR:**

PRESCHOOL LEADERSHIP	CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP
STUDENT LEADERSHIP	YOUNGER ADULT LEADERSHIP
OLDER ADULT LEADERSHIP	GENERAL OFFICERS/PASTORS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT ALL LOCATIONS  
**DR. JIMMY DRAPER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 291, OR IN JACKSON AT 601-292-3291 OR E-MAIL CDAY@MBCB.ORG.

## ENCOURAGE AN MK TODAY WITH A CARD!

9-9-95  
**MISS EMILY C. HEWITT**  
Parents: Earl and Ramona  
West Africa

9-12-99  
**MISS ANNA GRACE**  
Parents: Philip & Dawn  
Central & Eastern Europe

9-13-98  
**MR. HUDSON GRANT MATHENY**  
Parents: Tim & Cathy  
Central & Eastern Europe

9-16-86  
**MR. KENNEDY HORTON**  
Parents: Francis & Angie  
Baptist Global Response

9-17-05  
**MR. NATHAN HODGINS**  
Parents: Ray & Cindy  
South America

9-20-93  
**MR. TYLER BRIDGES**  
Parents: Randy & Kim  
South America

9-21-92  
**MR. DERRICK DeMARS**  
Parents: Guy & Cindy  
West Africa

9-27-01  
**MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM**  
Parents: Tracy and Genie  
Central and Eastern Europe

No magazines or periodicals can be forwarded.

Due to security reasons full names or region of service may not be published.

Cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name  
Parent's name  
**MBCB wMu MK**  
Birthdays,  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS  
39205

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

# HOUSE TOPS



## HOMEcomings AND REVIVALS

**Bethel Church, Smith Association: Revival, July 15-19;** Sun., duck dinner, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Annon Burns, speaker; Bobby Boyles, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 22-26;** Sun. services followed by lunch and evening service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Cochran, speaker; Stacey Smith, music; Trent Bilbo, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Canton: Revival, Aug. 5-8;** Sun., 10:15 a.m. 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Graham Smith, music; Tom Rayburn, pastor; Lewis Jones, music director.

**Gore Springs Church, North Central Association: Revival, July 15-18;** Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Mel, speaker; Barry Worrell, music; Larry Haggard, pastor.

**Holly Springs Church, Foxworth: Revival, July 15-20;** Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. except Thurs., 6:30 p.m. with music by the L.A. Boys; Glen Davis, speaker; Rob Schepers, music; Ron Jordan, pastor.

**Montgomery Church, Lincoln Association: Revival, July 15-18;** Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Adams, speaker; Chad Moak, music; Mile Kee, pastor.

**Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 15-19;** Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bendon Ginn, Doug Warren, Grant McElveen, Bobby McGuffie, and Ronnie Robinson, speakers, respectively; Ken Hedgepath, music; Danny Moss, pastor.

**Mt. Pleasant Church, Gloster: Homecoming and Revival, July 15-18;** Sun., 11 a.m. followed by lunch and singing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ray Spence, speaker; Raymond Steele, music; Stacy Collum, pastor.

**Vaiden Church, Vaiden: Revival, July 15-18;** Gene Gillis, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

**Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven: Revival, July 15-20;** Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Mike Moak, music; Kent Cochran, pastor.

**Priceville Church, Tupelo: Revival, July 15-19;** Randy Bostick, speaker; Kenneth Leslie, worship leader; Tim Tutor, pastor.

**Providence Church, Jayess: 160th Anniversary and revival, July 13-15;** Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., followed by worship, lunch, music by Shepherds Call Quartet and dedication of the new Family Life Center; pastor Will Wall, Steven Smith, and Ron Satterwhite, speakers; Price Harris, music.

**Robinson Church, Liberty: Revival, July 13-15;** Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing; W.R. Lowery, pastor.

**Shiloh Church, Houlika: Revival, July 22-25;** 7 p.m. nightly; Joe Herndon, speaker; Andi Wilhite, music.

**Weir Church, Weir: Revival, July 22-25;** Brian Johnson, speaker; Diane Atkinson, music; Jim Pender, pastor; for information, call (662) 547-6147.

## 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



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BN UPIWTG, LWXRW  
VPKT IWTB BT, XH VGT-  
PITG IWPC PAA; PCS CD  
BPC XH PQAT ID EAJRZ  
IWTB DJI DU BN UPIWT-  
G'H WPCS.

YDWC ITC: ILTCIN-CXCT

Clue: U = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Ten: Twenty.

SUMMER VACATION

Before vacation:  
1) Confirm hotel reservations  
2) Get cash for trip  
3) Pack

SEND CHURCH OUR TITHE

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of the Village View publication is dedicated to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals have contributed to this special section. The gifts are listed in the following columns.

JUNE 26-JULY 5, 2007

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Hospital-Surgery, PACU &  
Anesthesia Depts  
Craig Reid  
Mrs. Cindy Williams Courtney  
Della Mae Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler  
Mrs. Frances Rodgers  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Mrs. Thelma Ruth  
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony S. Kay  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh &  
Ralph Perkins  
Ronnie Satcher  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler  
Ms. W. C. "Doug" Shelby  
Valley Park Baptist Church

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Warnock  
Mrs. Jeryl Johnson  
Mrs. Vila Mae Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Barbee  
Deanna Sittin  
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton  
Mrs. Phala Irene Smith  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Mr. William "Will" Randolph So  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Will Soyars  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark  
Mrs. Sally M. Watts  
Gus Speed  
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton  
Carolyn Sue Spicer  
Oldtown BC-Pittsboro  
Ruel Spratlin  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh  
& Ralph Perkins  
Jo Stallings  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh  
& Ralph Perkins  
Kenneth W. Statham, Sr.  
Mrs. Allyne Statham  
Susan Statham  
Mrs. Allyne Statham  
Carl Stephens, Jr.

Ms. Mingnonne Stephens  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.  
Mable Stephenson  
North McComb Baptist Church  
James R. Stewart  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh  
& Ralph Perkins  
Mrs. Shirley Stewart  
Tucker's Crossing BC WMU-Laurel  
Waudine Storey  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
Mrs. Betty Stringer  
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton  
Mr. James Thomas "Jimmy" Sumner  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
William Tanner  
Ms. Virginia Selden  
Martha Tartt  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh &  
Ralph Perkins  
Mrs. Virginia Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Theron Poole  
Mr. Henry Thames  
Ms. Janice M. Thames  
Andy Tindall  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh &  
Ralph Perkins  
Mrs. Julia Van Hoose  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen

Ruth Vanlandingham  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh &  
Ralph Perkins  
Woodrow Wall  
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton  
Mickey Warren  
Magnolia Crappie Club  
Butch Westmoreland  
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton  
Chase Wilbanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Wilbanks  
Ramona Williamson  
Kolola Springs BC-Caledonia  
C. W. Wilson  
Shuqualak Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Tommy Word  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith  
Cindy Yancy  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh  
& Ralph Perkins  
Jean Yeager  
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh  
& Ralph Perkins

Youth volunteers from First Church, Clinton, recently spent their morning trimming and sorting Campbell's Labels for education. The youth were under the leadership of Ms. Holly Kliesh.



The Baptist Children's Village is looking for individuals to join their ministry team. Applicants must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff to be considered for the available position.

### Houseparent Job Opening on India Nunnery Campus, Jackson

The primary job responsibility of a house parent is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents.

The duties of a houseparent are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

### Other job responsibilities:

- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage

### Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- A single woman or a husband/wife team will be considered for this position
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Educational background must be at a minimum a GED, but some college is preferred
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Good organizational skills

To request an application or for more information please go to [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) or call 601-922-2242.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Sharing Christ with All People

Acts 10:24-29, 34-36, 42-48

By Laura Leathers

What is your mission today? Zacchaeus' mission for the day was "to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:1-10). "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" — Jesus' only mission. When Zacchaeus came down out of the sycamore tree we are told he "received Him joyfully". When a person accepts God's gift of grace — Jesus — they experience the greatest miracle — a transformed life! Sharing Christ with all people is the mission of every believer.

Ten years have now passed since Pentecost and the saving of the 3000 souls. Did the apostles forget the words of Jesus; "Be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8)? Warren Wiersbe answers, "But God has His times as well as His plans, and the transition from the Jews

to the Samaritans to the Gentiles was a gradual one." Therefore, in God's perfect timing, "a centurion, Cornelius, a devout man and one who feared God, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always," was now ready to meet Jesus. But first Peter had to . . .

#### 1. Overcome Barriers (Acts 10:24-29)

The Good News presented to the Gentiles makes the entire 10th chapter of Acts pivotal in the life of the early church. Cornelius and Peter could not meet until God worked in Peter's heart and mind to rise above the following obstacles. The Barrier of Prejudice: Peter, the Jewish apostle, had to realize "What God has cleansed you must not call common" (vs. 15). This law dates back to the days of Moses (Lev. 11). Furthermore, what Christ accomplished at the

Leathers

Peter was being called to move out of his comfort zone and make no distinctions. The phrase "nothing doubting" (vs. 20) means "making no distinctions." The days of the barriers between Jews and Gentiles were about to fade away.

The Barrier of Preconceived Ideas can be a major deterrent to spreading the Gospel. Sometimes we walk into a situation thinking this is the way it is going to be only to be brought to the stark realization that God's plans and purposes are far different than ours. Isn't it interesting Peter asked, "Then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

The Barrier of Partiality is a chief stumbling block, even in

today's society. Partiality is "to give consideration to someone simply because of his position, wealth, influence, popularity, or appearance." (McArthur Study Bible) Man looks on the outside; God looks at the heart and shows no partiality (Rom. 2:11; 3:29, 30; James 2:1). We are all the same — sinners in need of God's grace.

2. Speak God's Message (Acts 10:34-36, 42-43)

Cornelius, a man of piety and morality, had a religion but not a relationship. He needed salvation. Furthermore, so great was his desire to hear God's message he was "waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends". Notice how he tells Peter, "we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

Therefore, Peter brought forth the message, "In truth . . . Jesus Christ — He is Lord of all." Peter, a witness and an apostle of Jesus Christ, spoke "that through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." This is God's message to a lost and dying world!

#### 3. Accept All Who Receive Christ (Acts 10:44-48)

No sooner does Peter begin his preaching when he is suddenly interrupted — "The Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word." Peter didn't finish his sermon because people immediately began to receive Christ. They heard the Truth and responded through faith.

Instantly, Peter moves to the next step, baptism. "Baptism is an obedient response to salvation — to what God has already done — rather than a step that completes salvation."

Take a few moments and read chapter 11:1-18. Peter returns to Jerusalem only to be challenged by the legalistic party of the church. Notice verse 18, "When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life' (Acts 11:18). Your mission: Know Him and make Him known!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Repentance

Zechariah 1:1-6; 2:7-13

By Charles Rodgers

Repentance is a forgotten discipline these days. Sin can be explained away in most cases. It has become a disease or a dysfunction or perhaps an alternate lifestyle. Today, sin can be aborted, immunized, inoculated, medicated, psychoanalyzed or rationalized. Repentance has become old school, unnecessary, mostly inappropriate in the 21st century. Most people are passing by the churches that teach repentance as an essential doctrine for Christian living. They deny the truth of God's word and ignore God's call for repentance. But God's Word presents its teachings as absolute truth. God wants all people to turn to Him, repenting of their sins, and He warns that certain judgment awaits those who refuse to repent.

In the book of Zechariah, God invites the Israelites in Judah to return to Him, promising the blessing of His presence to those who would do so. Zechariah's name means "the Lord remembers." He is a contemporary of Haggai. He had returned to Palestine as a priest and a prophet two months after Haggai had returned. They together impacted the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. The book of Zechariah is considered to be the strongest source for New Testament theology. It contains more prophecy concerning Christ, Israel and the nations than any other OT book. In this book of prophecy, Zechariah calls upon readers to:

#### I. Accept the invitation — Zechariah 1:1-3

Zechariah begins by reminding them that their fathers had



Rodgers

also been offered forgiveness if they would repent, but that they had not done so. He tells them that God was not pleased with their parents' decision not to come back to Him. But God makes a new offer to the children. Turn to me and I will turn to you. God is certainly a merciful

and forgiving God. He was faithful to offer forgiveness and blessing to all generations, regardless of how the previous generations have responded to Him. It is still true today.

God has lovingly provided forgiveness for us in Christ. Christ, the Son of God, died on Calvary's Cross to pay the sin debt for each one of us so that we might enjoy the love, mercy and forgiveness of God. God invites all of us to repent of our sins and to turn to Him in faith. If you have not received this forgiveness yet, why don't you simply bow right now where you are and confess your sins to God and ask His forgiveness and cleansing. If you pray it,

and you mean it, He will do it! It is an invitation from God, and all you need to do is accept it!

#### II. Avoid the Judgment — Zechariah 1:4-6

These verses provide an exhortation by the prophet for the people to learn from the experiences of their fathers and to avoid their mistakes. It is a call for reconciliation with God. Zechariah is reminding them that the opportunities of the past are gone, so are the prophets, but God's Word is still relevant. Your fathers heard this word, refused to return to Him, and suffered the consequences. Now it is your turn! Will you learn from the past, repent and avoid the judgment of God.

#### III. Acclaim the Protection — Zechariah 2:7-9

Although Babylon has already fallen, history tells us that the Persians had to put down harshly two subsequent rebellions by the Babylonians. This accounts for the Lord's call for all His people to return to Jerusalem to escape Babylon's judgment. He relates in this passage that God's wrath is going to be poured out upon

those nations that had persecuted His people. He warns them to leave before this judgment comes. This warning to flee indicates that God will always protect His people during the calamities that may befall them. God promises to be with them and to sustain them in whatever happens.

#### IV. Anticipate the Joy — Zechariah 2:10-13

Zechariah encourages the people of Judah to begin their celebration of joy. The complete restoration of Judah is coming soon. God promises His presence in Jerusalem, His participation with His people in their acts of worship, and His openness to include even other nations in this relationship. This message also extends into the messianic future. It is a vision of the eternal Jerusalem beyond this age. It is a reminder that God's people experience the joy of the Lord's presence now and joyfully anticipate His eternal rule.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.





2. Royce and Tuck at MC Commencement Ceremony

1. **Mississippi College** has announced Cindy Hampton as recipient of the university's Outstanding Staff Award for 2007. Hampton has worked at MC since 1977 and was recently recognized for 30 years of service to the university. She began her career at MC as assistant registrar; however, she has worked the majority of these years in Computer Services where she has served as project leader for the Banner system implementation.



Hampton

2. **Mississippi College** President Lee Royce conferred degrees upon approximately 600 undergraduate, graduate, and law students during the May 2007 commencement ceremonies held May 11 and 12. Ceremony speakers included Stan Baldwin, dean for the School of Science and Mathematics and associate professor of biology at Mississippi College, graduate school commencement; United States Senator Thad Cochran, Law School commencement; and Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck, undergraduate commencement. Shown are Royce and Tuck.
3. **William Carey University's** Carey Dinner Theater will present **A Grand Night for Singing** July 10-21 nightly except Sunday and Monday. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O.L. Quave Theater with the performance following. Box office open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily except Sundays, and reservations can be made at (601) 318-6221. Admission price of \$25 includes dinner, show, and program book.



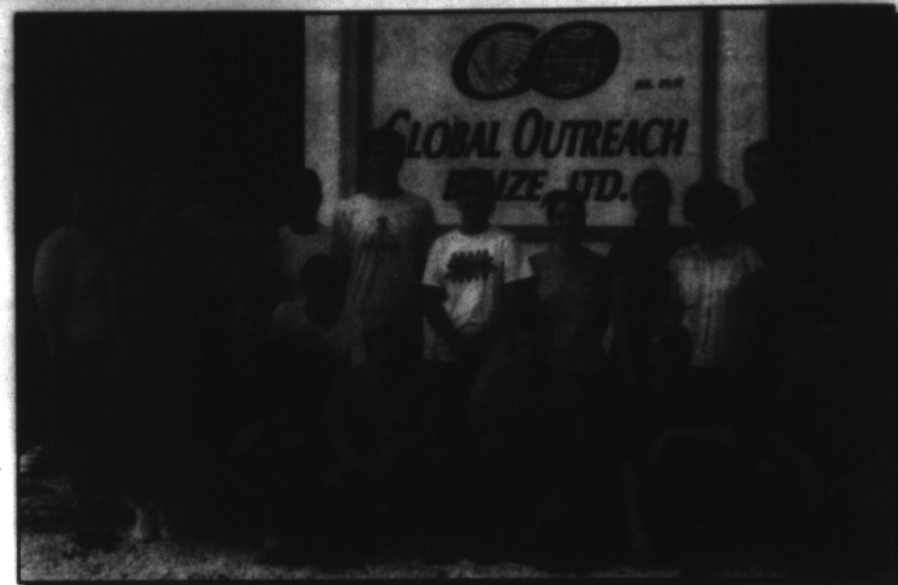
5. GA Awards Ceremony, First Church, Lyman



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

1. A group from **Iuka Church, Iuka**, recently went on a mission trip to Belmopan, Belize, serving in VBS, evangelism, and helping at a boy's school. Shown are the participants. Ronnie Hatfield, pastor.
2. A 13-member group from **Carroll-Montgomery Association**, served at Park Heights Church, Cleveland, Ohio June 9-15. The death of the team leader in Winona, Mae Hardin, on June 10 required five members of the team to return to Mississippi, but eight of the team remained to do construction, community service, and outreach projects. Shown are the participants.
3. Children from **First Church, Plantersville**, recently participated in a community wide bike-athon to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Shown are the participants.
4. The youth of **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, attended M-Fuge at Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn. Shown are the participants.
5. **First Church Lyman, Gulfport**, recently held a GA awards ceremony. Shown are the participants.



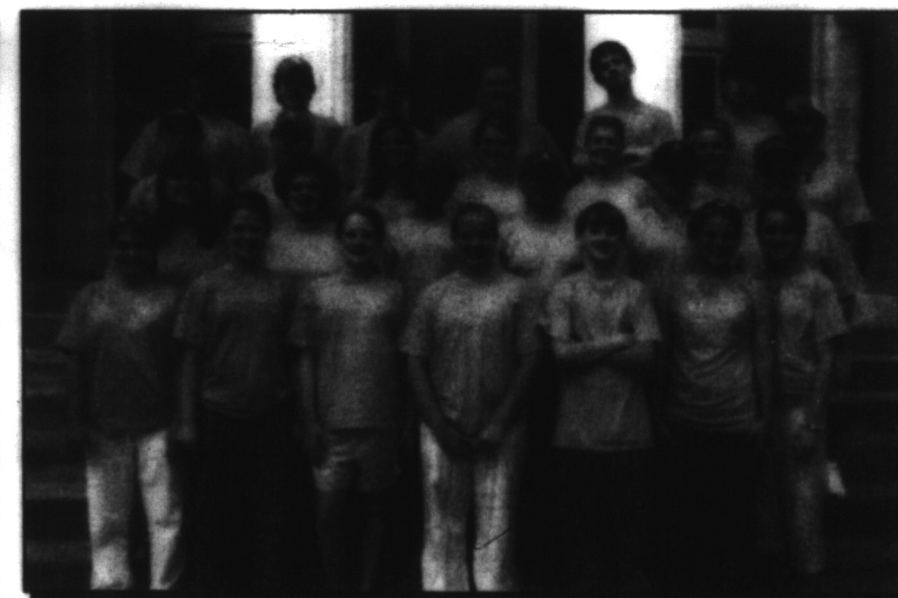
1. Belize Mission Trip, Iuka Church, Iuka



2. Mission group from Carroll-Montgomery Association



3. Bike-a-thon, First Church, Plantersville



4. Youth, Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

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**HOLMES COUNTY ASSN. SEEKING** director of missions. For questions call George Martin, (662) 633-0251 or David Richmond, (662) 420-9479. Submit resumes via email [mrcoinman@bell-south.net](mailto:mrcoinman@bell-south.net), or mail to D. Richmond, 103 North St., Lexington, MS 39095.

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